

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Response is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Response: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Response is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-19 -14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,652,154) in view of Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,045). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa and Yamaguchi as applied to claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-19 and further in view of Masashi et al. (JP 2000-347073). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa or Yamaguchi as applied to claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-19 and further in view of O'Connor (U.S. Patent No. 4,688,875). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Before addressing the substantive rejections, Applicants would like to point out that there appears to be mistakes in patent numbers cited in the Office Action. It appears to the Applicants that the patent numbers shown on page 2 section 2 of the Office Action should be read as follows:

Shirakawa et al (US 6,652,154 B2) → Shirakawa et al (US 6,499,889 B1)

and

Yamaguchi et al (US 6,558,045 B2) → Yamaguchi et al (US 6,517,252 B2)

Applicants discovered these apparent mistakes because the reference numbers for the elements are not consistent with those shown in the drawing figures. There are two patent documents for Shirakawa and Yamguchi, respectively, in the

first and the final Office Actions. The Examiner asserts the rejection of claims in sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks against section 2 of the Office Action.

The Examiner points out that Shirakawa discloses all the characteristic features of claim 1 of this invention except for "locking slotted pin", and Yamaguchi supplements the deficiency. The Examiner regards "grounding locking pin 22" (referred to as "earthing terminal 22" in Yamaguchi) as a counterpart of "locking slotted pin" of claim 1. Yamaguchi describes "earthing terminal 22" on lines 37 through 41 of column 8 as follows:

According to the present embodiment, when the earthing terminal 22 is pressed in the earthing terminal press-fit portion 35 of the housing 21, the earthing terminal 22 is put into contact with the base material 21a, of the housing 21, having a conductivity.

As described in Yamaguchi, "earthing terminal 22" is first inserted into the housing 21, and then inserted into the "slit 71" of the "printed circuit board 70", as shown in FIG 2. Yamaguchi does not disclose "a locking slotted pin, which extends from an outer peripheral surface of the socket housing, locking into the printed board" of claim 1. This characteristic feature distinguishing claim 1 from the combination of Shirakawa and Yamaguchi brings advantages that when an optical receptacle is mounted onto a printed board, this invention requires only one step to engage a "locking slotted pin" with the printed board. In contrast, Yamaguchi requires two steps: The "earthing terminal 22" is inserted into the housing 21 and then into the "slit 71" of the "printed circuit board 70."

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggest the features of claim 1 as discussed above. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over Shirakawa and Yamaguchi, and the other claims 2 to 13

and claims 15 to 19 depending from claim 1 are also patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

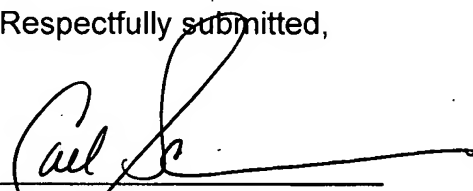
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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